

521-525 South Meyer Avenue  
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)  
Tucson  
Pima County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-18

HABS,  
ARIZ,  
10-TUCSO,  
30/18-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

FIMBRES HOUSE #2, 521-525 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE HABS No. AZ-73-18

Location: 521-525 S. Meyer Avenue, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona

USCS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970

Present Owner: Julia F. Sánchez.

Present Occupant: Evangelina Cota.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: This Late Transitional adobe house is one of two detached dwellings found on this block of South Meyer Avenue. It reveals its Anglo influences through its setback alignment and its hipped roof, and it also demonstrates the remodeling practices typical of the Barrio. Converted from a single-family residence to a duplex, and back to a single-family residence, it now has two front doors, although one is no longer used.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical Information:

1. Date of erection: 1908-1909.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Part of Lot 3, Block 241, parcels 18 and 19.

- |      |                                                                                                                 |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1908 | Judgement, December 8, 1908, recorded in Volume 44, page 61.<br>Heirs of Samuel McClatchy to F. Fimbres.        |
| 1933 | Deed, September 23, 1933, recorded in Volume 174, page 386.<br>Feliciano Fimbres to Julia de Fimbres, his wife. |
| 1939 | Deed, April 20, 1939, recorded in Volume 218, page 416.<br>Estate of Julia de Fimbres to Gregorio Fimbres.      |
| 1945 | Deed, April 9, 1945, recorded in Volume 278, page 532.<br>Gregorio Fimbres to Julia F. Sánchez.                 |

4. Builder: Feliciano Fimbres.

5. Alterations and additions: This residence was converted from a single family dwelling to a duplex between 1914 and 1919. A fire destroyed a portion of the rear of the house in 1979. This area is being rebuilt to house a kitchen and bathroom

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The name Fimbres has been associated with this section of S. Meyer Avenue since 1881, when the City Directory lists a Santos Fimbres. Feliciano Fimbres (probably related to Santos) and his wife, Julia, built this dwelling in approximately 1908, next door to the house they had built several years previously, at 509-513 S. Meyer Avenue. Fimbres, a laborer and wagon driver, had seven children. Julia Fimbres, a daughter, married Jesus Sánchez, a Southern Pacific Railroad employee. They occupied this house until their deaths in 1974 and 1959. Evangelina, the daughter of Jesus and Julia Sánchez, was born in this house and still occupies it with her family and her brother.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural characters: Originally a typical double row house with shot-gun plans, this hipped-roof building serves as a single family unit today.
2. Condition of fabric: This residence is currently undergoing rehabilitation; the building is sound.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures 30'-10" north-to-south along its west front facade, and 42'-10" west-to-east along its sides. Included in the latter dimension is a 12'-2"-deep addition, the full width of the house.
2. Foundations: Inaccessible. No foundation may exist and there is a concrete parging on the outside surface.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The 1'-1½" thick walls are of adobe mud construction, stuccoed and painted green. There are patches of unpainted cement stucco. The south wall of the exterior is not stuccoed.
4. Structural system, framing: The adobe bearing walls support standard ceiling joists and lightweight roof framing.
5. Chimneys: None.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There are two entrance doorways on the west facade of the building. (See Significance.)

There are no doors in the door openings on the east rear.

- b. Windows: There are two windows on the west front, two on the south and none on the north side. All windows are of wood double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. Window openings on the east rear are empty.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The hip roof has a ridge extending east/west and terminated by gablets. The surface is gray rolled asphalt. The original wood shingle roof is below the surface.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The rafter ends extend beyond the wall surface and are exposed.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: The building has a simple foursquare plan with a two-room addition to the east or rear. The main block of the building is divided into four equal quadrants. Originally the north and south sides of the building were separate units, but a doorway was cut in the wall between them later on.
- 2. Flooring: All floors are of poured concrete slabs.
- 3. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls are of plaster on adobe. There are some frame partitions with fly wall. Ceilings are of 2'x 4' wall-board panels with 2" battens. Ceilings of the addition are of exposed 2" x 4" rafter with random width sheathing.
- 4. Openings: Interior openings have no doors. They all have plastered jambs.
- 5. Equipment:
  - a. Electricity: Electrical service to the house.
  - b. Plumbing: New plumbing has been added (1980).
  - c. Heating: There is no heating system.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house is situated on the east side of South Meyer Avenue, set back from the property line about 7' (14' from the street). There is a 12' wide drive on the north side and a narrow (tapering from 3' to 5') areaway between this structure and its neighbor to the south.
2. Enclosures and planting: The rear yard is defined by a deteriorated wood and corrugated metal fence. There is no planting.

Prepared by: Prof. Robert C. Giebner  
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July 1980

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Building Slip, Pima County Assessor's Office.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.  
Tract Books, Pioneer Title Insurance Company (Recorder's records, microfilm).  
Tucson City Directories, 1881-1979.

Oral Interviews:

Evangelina Sánchez Cota, 525 S. Meyer Avenue  
Felix Fimbres, 462 E. 31st Street  
Eliazar Herreras, 1331 E. Waverly

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cota; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.